

REMARKS

Claims 11 and 18 have been amended. Claim 21 has been canceled. No new matter has been added. Claims 11 to 15, 17 to 20, and 22 to 24 are now pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of this response.

The Declaration/Oath was objected to for not stating “as amended by any amendment specifically referred to in the oath or declaration.” Applicant respectfully submits that no amendment was “specifically referred to” in the oath or declaration, and thus, the omission of such phrase does not affect the Declaration as signed. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that the Declaration as executed and filed continues to be effective since the statement that the inventor has read and understood the application, as well as the claims, is attested to, and any *subsequent* response or amendment during prosecution of the application cannot exceed the scope of the originally filed application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Declaration as filed is proper in all respects, and acceptance of the Declaration as filed is requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 21 would be allowable if rewritten to include any claims upon which it depends. Since claim 21 depended directly from claim 11, Applicant amended claim 11 (instead of claim 21) with the features of claim 21. Accordingly, as amended, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 is allowable. No new matter has been added. Further, claim 18 was amended to include a similar feature as recited by claim 21. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 18 is allowable. No new matter has been added. Since the remaining claims depends from one of amended claims 11 and 18, those remaining claims are also believed allowable.

In view of the amendments of the features of claim 21 to claims 11 and 18, Applicant respectfully submits that the newly proposed rejections of claims 11 to 15, 17 to 20, and 22 to 24, are now moot in view of the Office Action’s statements regarding former claim 21.

Accordingly, withdrawal of any objections and/or rejections of claims 11 to 15, 17 to 20, and 22 to 24, is respectfully requested.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all pending claims should be found allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the objections to and rejections of the claims have been obviated, and that pending claims 11 to 15, 17 to 20, and 22 to 24, are allowable.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections and objections be withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Monday, February 1, 2010 By: /Linda Lecomte/
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